

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 217

By Garrett

A RESOLUTION to honor Clint Edward Parnell upon a lifetime of accomplishments as an educator.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in recognizing a teacher, coach, administrator, and athletic director whose humility and faith inspire him to place others, especially young people, before himself; and

WHEREAS, Clint Edward Parnell began his teaching and coaching career in 1963; fifty-eight years later, at the age of eighty, he still positively influences young people each day as the Dean of Athletics at Goodpasture Christian School; and

WHEREAS, the seventh child of Ralph and Maudie Qualls Parnell, Clint Parnell was raised on the family's 217-acre farm in Perry County, which he still owns today; and

WHEREAS, as a child, he attended the Parnell School, which was named for his grandfather, Samuel Thomas Parnell; Mr. Parnell became a Christian in 1955 while attending Linden High School, from which he graduated in 1959; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Linden basketball teams, coached by the legendary Willie Hudson, that won State championships from between 1955-1957; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parnell became the first member of his family to attend college when he enrolled at Freed-Hardeman College, where he played basketball for two years, before transferring to David Lipscomb College; there he met the love of his life and future wife, Judy Cook Parnell; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from David Lipscomb College in 1963, he continued his education at Middle Tennessee State University, from which he obtained his master's degree +45 hours in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parnell's first teaching position was at Maplewood High School, where he served as a history teacher and football, basketball, and track coach; and

WHEREAS, he next taught and coached at Ewing Park Middle School and also officiated youth baseball and basketball games during his spare time; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-one years in a classroom, he became an assistant principal at Whites Creek High School and Dupont Tyler Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parnell retired from Metro Nashville Schools in 1992 and began his tenure at Goodpasture Christian School, first serving as a principal and then as athletic director; and

WHEREAS, he relinquished his principal position in 2005 but continued to serve as athletic director because of his love for young people and high school sports; in 2018, Goodpasture named him its first Dean of Athletics; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary career, Mr. Parnell has competed against and worked alongside many legendary coaches and mentored some of the best athletes in Nashville sports history, several of whom enjoyed careers in professional sports afterwards; the teams he has served as coach or athletic director have won thirty-nine State championship titles and counting; and

WHEREAS, he has had the great privilege of teaching and coaching two generations of the same family many times and is currently mentoring a third-generation member of a Goodpasture family; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Parnell was named Metro Nashville Schools Teacher of the Year by his peers in 1984, TSSAA Athletic Director of the Year in 2009, and National Christian School Association Educator of the Year for 2011-2012; and

WHEREAS, he was honored with the Freed-Hardeman National Alumni Association Service to Education award in 1999 and was deservedly inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame in 2020; and

WHEREAS, at every school at which he has taught, the student body has dedicated a yearbook in his honor, and Goodpasture is naming its new facility addition the Parnell Athletic Center as a tribute to him; both honors speak volumes about his positive impact on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many accomplishments as a teacher and coach, Mr. Parnell has faithfully served Rivergate Church of Christ for thirty years, first as a Deacon and currently as an Elder; he has also served on the President's Board of Freed-Hardeman University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parnell is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of fifty-seven years, Judy Cook Parnell; their two children, Rhonda and Jeff; and their three grandchildren, James, Meredith, and Maggie, all of whom attended Goodpasture Christian School from kindergarten through graduation; and

WHEREAS, for eighty years, Clint Edward Parnell has lived by the adage "...the world may be a better place because I was important in the life of a child" to the great benefit of his students and the entire Nashville community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Clint Edward Parnell upon a lifetime of accomplishments as a teacher, coach, administrator, athletic director, and public servant, congratulate him upon the dedication of the Parnell Athletic Center at Goodpasture, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.